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OCC-M-74-204

10 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: OC Equipment Board Members

SUBJECT : Review of OC Position Relating to  
Utilization of CCTV

1. At the last OC Equipment Board meeting, the Chairman assigned OC-CS the task of making a study of the CCTV problem, and with submitting the results, along with recommendations, to the board. The task assignment was in response to a request by OC-E that the board address the problem of the proliferation of CCTV equipment at OC facilities overseas.

2. We have reviewed the history of CCTV utilization as a security aid within the Agency. We also investigated the use of such systems by the Department of State, looked at some of the commercial security applications, and reviewed the current requests for CCTV systems at OC facilities overseas. The review is attached.

3. We recommend OC take the following position regarding CCTV.

a. At the present time CCTV security systems should not be introduced into the OC inventory of equipment as a programmable stock item.

b. Requests for CCTV as a security aid should be examined on a case-by-case basis to determine the validity of the requirement. If the request is valid it should be satisfied by:

(1) Local purchase of a system which can be maintained under a local service contract.

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Communications Security Staff, OC

Attachment:  
CCTV Study

Distribution:  
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REVIEW OF OC POSITION  
RELATING TO UTILIZATION  
OF CCTV

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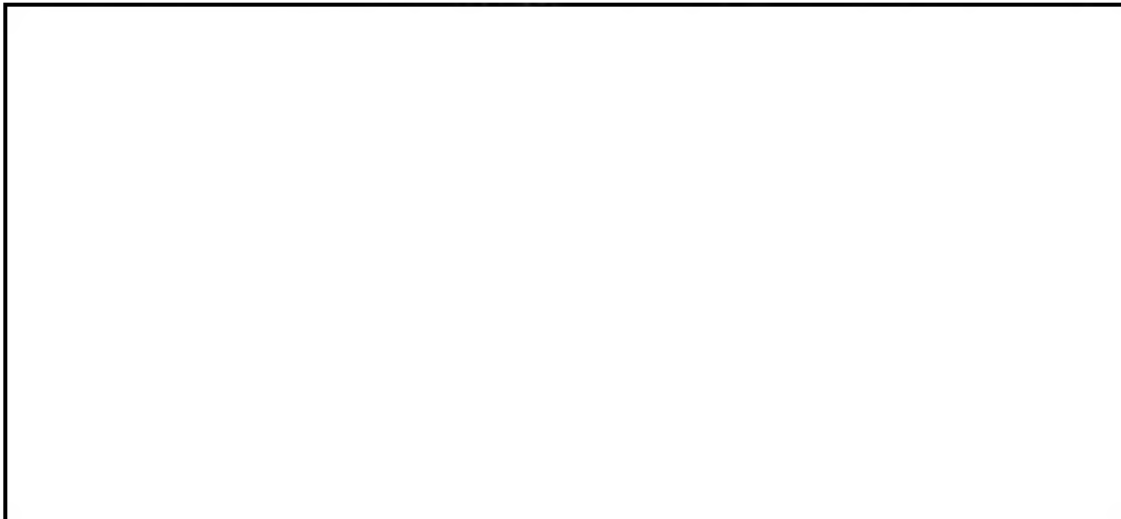
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A. HISTORY OF COMSEC INVOLVEMENT IN CCTV

1. Questions about the utilization of CCTV as a physical security aid have been in and out of COMSEC thinking for some time. Early references in the 1967 time frame exist, but our activity in the arena of CCTV utilization has been limited.

2. A policy statement encompassing all (or many) facets of CCTV utilization could not be found. CY 67-460, distributed in January 1968, addressed the use of CCTV. It stated that various agencies had conducted TEMPEST evaluations of a variety of systems and components and had found their TEMPEST characteristics rendered them unsuitable for the transmission of security information.



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3. Correspondence in 1968 between branches within COMSEC relates TEMPEST test results of a variety of

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CCTV systems or components. The tests had been conducted by a private research firm under contract to the U.S.A.F., and from a passive TEMPEST standpoint many systems were reported approved for classified use. It is noteworthy that COMSEC initiated TEMPEST tests conducted in the OC Lab on the same lines of equipment negated many of the findings of the U.S.A.F. tests.

4. In 1968 and 1969 we responded to field requests about CCTV. With Office of Security coordination we forwarded brochures, made precautionary statements about the potential TEMPEST hazards and more or less left evaluation of system need and utility to the requestor.

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G. LIMITATIONS

1. According to OS Technical Division, psychological testing indicates that it is not valid to assign an individual to continuously monitor a TV screen. The tests reveal that after intently watching a static TV screen for approximately twenty minutes the individual does not respond to changes in the picture. A somewhat trance-like state is induced and the effectiveness of the system is negated by the fact that the individual monitoring the screen loses the ability to react to changes in the picture.

H. CONCLUSIONS

1. The CCTV is a valuable security tool when properly applied. It is not a panacea, does not fit every situation,

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cannot be relied upon as a single security system, and it does have certain installation and maintenance requirements. It is most effective when used as part of a security package employing many techniques of protection. Within the time tested in-depth, multi-barrier concept of physical security protection, CCTV is an effective security aid. We agree with the DOS that the presence of a responding security force is a required criteria for installation of a system.

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